

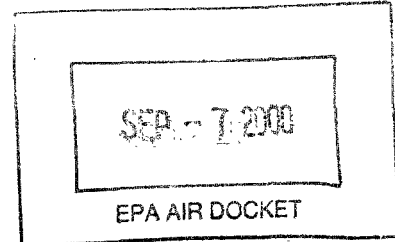
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A99-29
I-B-149**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300
DENVER, CO 80202-2466
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

AUG 23 2000



Ref: 8P-AR

Dear

This letter is to invite your participation in the designations process for the 8-hour ozone standard involving your Tribal Lands. Unfortunately, the time line for both Tribes and States to make recommendations and for EPA to promulgate designations is potentially very short. Due to the time needed to complete the designation process, a recommendation received by us by September 30, 2000, will then give your Tribe and us sufficient time to consult on the final designation status for the 8-hour ozone standard.

On July 18, 2000, John S. Seitz, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Director of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) issued the enclosed memorandum entitled "Guidance on 8-Hour Ozone Designations for Indian Tribes." This document offers information on the process for Tribal recommendations for designating areas for the 8-hour ozone standard, if the Tribes choose to make recommendations to EPA. Further, the guidance: (1) provides Tribes with an explanation of the Clean Air Act's section 107 designation process and how it applies to the Tribe; (2) describes the factors a Tribe should consider when recommending a designation for lands or areas within the Tribe's jurisdiction; and (3) explains how we will consult with the Tribes. This Tribal Guidance supplements our earlier guidance memorandum of March 28, 2000, that is entitled "Boundary Guidance on Air Quality Designations for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards and 8-Hour Designation."

Our preliminary analysis for lands or areas within your jurisdiction would support an "attainment/unclassifiable" designation for the 8-hour ozone standard. We note there is a lack of ambient ozone air quality monitoring data. However, our analysis is based on the following: (a) your lands are located in a rural setting and are not near a major metropolitan area; (b) your lands are not impacted by long-distance transport of ozone or its precursors from upwind metropolitan areas; and (c) they also are not impacted by emissions from a great number of local, large stationary facilities or vehicles.

I want to emphasize our desire to have you participate in this designation process. I encourage you to contact us if you are interested in making a designation recommendation and would like us to provide assistance. Please be advised that we were able to briefly review this recommendation process with many of the Tribal Air Contacts that attended our meeting on June 29, 2000, here in Denver.

Please feel free to contact Dick Long at (303) 312-6005 or Larry Svoboda at (303) 312-6004, both from our Air and Radiation Program, if you have any questions about the enclosed material. You or your staff also are welcome to contact Monica Morales, at (303) 312-6936, or Tim Russ, at (303) 312-6479, of our Air and Radiation Program staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By: Rebecca Hanmer

Rebecca W. Hanmer
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Tribal Environmental Directors/Managers (with enclosure)
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